

60  
Clippers Clipped

OR A  
RELATION  
OF THE

TRYALL

Of several Persons Indicted for Coyn-  
ing Clipping and Fileing of money.

WITH

The Condemnation Execution and

SPEECHES

Of four Eminent Clippers and Filers who were Executed  
at Tyburne on Saturday Decemb. 17. 1664.

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London Printed for Francis Griffin, 1664.



Clippers Clipped

REKATION

OF THE

FRYAL

Office of the Secretary for the  
the Clipping of the

The Constitution, Execution and

SPEECHES

Office of the Secretary for the  
the Clipping of the

London Times, 1841

# The Tryal and Exami- Nation of the COINERS.

**T**He several Grand Abuses which have been put upon this Nation within these late Years by false and counterfeit Coin, is so notoriously known to the world, that not any, though of the lowest capacity, but are sensible of it; for the nature of man is such, as to be more sensible of losses sustained than of benefits received: Now scarce any of the lowest trading, but hath some time or other received bad money for good wares; when perhaps most of this money was none of his own, but onely receiving wares on trust, and not so well discerning right from false or counterfeit Coin, hath by that means been deprived of the benefit of that gains which should have been a necessary support to him, his Wife, and Family. Against these grand abuses the wisdom of our fore-fathers hath provided necessary and wholesome Laws: so that the punishment of the breach of them reaches even to life it self; which though to some it may seem hard and rigid; yet considering what further mischief would ensue thereon, were not the punishment so exemplary, it will appear to any rational man, that the providential care of our Ancestors is herein highly to be applauded; for as the losses accruing thereby are (as I said before) so general, that scarce any, though of the meanest account, but some time or other are concerned therein; so sometimes it doth happen to fall so heavy, even upon these mean ones, as to cause them to fast, when they might have had their bellies filled. As for instance,



a poor man with great labour dearly earn some small Money,  
 which costs him not onely the sweat of his brows, but perhaps  
 the loss of his health by extream heats and colds: and thinking  
 by this small pittance to provide bread for himself and Children,  
 who with a longing expectation wait for his coming home: in  
 the conclusion his money proves bad, will not be taken, the par-  
 ty he had it of perhaps a stranger, or at the present not to be  
 found he despairing sits down, his children cry for victuals, and  
 all caused by the false Coiner, who perhaps by that time hath  
 wasted what he had as wickedly cheated the Countrey of, it be-  
 ing most commonly seen, that what is bad got is as ill spent. Be-  
 sides that high affront offered herein to the Supream Authority;  
 not onely by daring to counterfeit his Sacred Majesties Stamp,  
 but also to Clip and File what was lawfully made, and of just  
 weight, according to the known Laws of the Land: which de-  
 facing of the Kings Image hath in former times been so ill re-  
 sented, that we finde in our English Annals how one was put to  
 death in the time of Queen *Elizabeth* for abusing a Picture of hers  
 which hung upon the wall. Well therefore might the Apostle  
 say, that *Covetousness was the root of all evil*, which is the origi-  
 nal of this great abuse; for the greedy desire of getting Wealth,  
 though by such destructive and pernicious wayes, is the grand  
 cause which makes so many to venture their lives for the obtain-  
 ing of it. I shal not here go about to give you a catalogue how  
 many hundreds of people have suffered for it in former ages, of  
 which our Chronicles are stored with plenty of examples: Our  
 late times hath afforded so many, that those who are not alto-  
 gether ignorant, cannot but be sufficiently informed thereof;  
 yet cannot I but herein highly commend and extol the great care  
 of his Sacred Majesty our present Sovereign, who to his great  
 cost and charges hath so ordered the Mint, that a man would ima-  
 gine that Stamp cannot be counterfeited, to be sure neither Clip-  
 ped nor Filed, which is the Offence for which these four persons  
 for whom this discourse is intended, are by the Law condemned  
 to dye.

What great losses hath been sustained by many thousands of peo-

people within these late years by such Clipped and Filed Money, I think none are ignorant of, and what infinite summes thereof was forced to be new coined, and reduced to its former weight and value; how many can testifie the corruption of the late times, when some took a licence to themselves to act all manner of Crimes, as having Rulers as lewd as themselves, had brought money to such a little scantling, that we could scarce take five shillings, but one, if not more of them, was Clipped or Filed, which the honest Countrey-man called round (though all money be so) and therefore (as in good reason he might) refused to take the same in payment, to the great hindrance of Trade, and loss to Tradesmen.

These great losses wherein so many have been concerned, hath caused such a general expectation of what would be the issue of the Tryal of those persons who have lately been committed to Newgate upon the account of Coining, Clipping, and Filing of Money, that it hath been within these few dayes the general discourse of the people, and that not onely of the Vulgar, but of Eminent men of known worth and abilities: we shall therefore for satisfaction of those who desire to be rightly informed herein give you a brief relation thereof, of which some may wonder that we are so short in telling you of the Tryal of the four notorious Offenders condemned to dye, you are made amends in what they uttered in their Speeches at such time as they were upon Execution; the words of dying men being more satisfactory to most sorts of people, then what is spoken in pleading for life; when a man will use his best endeavours to preserve it, although it be by justifying what is untrue, or by denying what his conscience known to be true: when as they come to dying his Conscience so much reflects upon his future condition, as that it forces him to speak onely reality, although this be not always so (our late times affording some examples to the contrary) yet for the most part the rule doth hold.

The four persons who are executed, are *Peter Rowe*, *Christopher Taylor*, *William Que*, and *William Muncheſter*, their Crimes were much of a like nature, viz. For Clipping and Filing several sums.



Yund of his Majesties current money of this Realm, for which they were convicted by manifest Evidence, having all the favour the Law would afford them, being heard with great patience, so that they cannot but in reason applaud the Justice of the Court although in their own condemnation. great was the concourse of Spectators to hear and see their tryal; things of a general concernment inviting a number of people thereto.

For those other Persons who were likewise tried this Session we have here given you a more particular account thereof, especially of *Richard Underwood* and *Ellin* his wife, our meaning therein being to let you know the danger of some Witnesses who for lucre of money care not to what they swear, although to the taking away a mans life; and therefore I shall advise all people not to be too rash in their censures in thinking all guilty who are brought to tryal, but leave it to the wisdom of those Reverend Judges whose great abilities have placed them in that Magisterial Office, and whose discerning Spirits can quickly discover, what is evidenced for lucre of money, or out of as bad a principle, wicked malice, from that which is attested onely from a principle of truth, to which they are called to bear Witness.

Others tryals we have given you more short (for we intend not to make a large volume of it) onely a breif account of their names, the chief heads of their Indictments, with the witnesses names that were sworn in the business, amongst which number we find *Oliver* and *Smith* persons very active in prosecuting the Prisoners, of what credit these witnesses are I shall leave to the world to judge, onely commend the great wisdom of the Jury herein in being very cautelous for the believing of the truth of their evidence.

I shall not trouble the Reader with a rehearsall of those forms in Law usuall at such Court, whereby the prisoners are brought to their tryal, neither relate the names of the Jurors, but proceed to what I imagine more material, viz. their tryals, of which take in order this breif account.

*Robert Underwood and Elizabeth* of the Parish of *St. Andrew* in the County of *Middlesex*, were indicted for that they did utter, in payment for good money seven pieces of Copper covered with silver, called *King Charles the Second* half Crowns, to the great prejudice of the Leige people of this kingdom, and one *Oliver* who gave information thereof, called a great number of witnesses for proof thereof, who were then sworn, the first was *Grace Stevens*, the widdow of one *Thomas Stevens* who was imprisoned in *Newgate* for false Coyning and there lately dyed, she said that the said *Underwood* and his wife bought several parcells of false money of the said *Thomas Stevens* for 15 shillings per pound they knowing it to be naught and they uttered it abroad, they have confest to me that if they had more so it was handsome, and well done, they could put it away. She said that she see them buy five and forty pound at five several times of the said *Stevens*, and they desired he would silver them better on the out side, and this was about a year and half ago.

The next was *Susan Stevens* sworn, and said that she being a poor woman, *Tho. Stevens* a Coiner implied her to carry some of the Money to Mr. *Underwood* to the black Bull in *Holborn* where the said *Stevens* would be; and when I brought it, *Stevens* took the money of me and delivered it to Mrs. *Underwood*: there was five pound, and she paid him fifteen shillings in the pound for it.

*Oliver* said that after he had took Mrs. *Underwood*, her friends gave him five pound to take the Witnesses off, that they might not prosecute, and promised to make it up fifty pound, and I promised to take off the Witnesses; but as soon as I had the five pound I made affidavit before Justice *Snape* what they had given and promised, and was resolved to prosecute them.

*Matthew Raven* sworn, said, that upon a former information he served a Warrant upon Mrs. *Underwood*, and carried her before Justice *Geere*, who bound her over to the Sessions, for putting away ten shillings of bad money, but upon her Tryal she was acquitted.

One *Clark* being sworn, said, that *Oliver* came to his house and drank there, and desired him to go before Justice *Snap* about Mrs. *Underwood*: *Clark* told him he knew nothing but of ten shillings suspicious that Mrs. *Underwood* paid in *Smithfield*, but she was acquitted: he said that *Oliver* bid him speak home, and do Mrs. *Underwoods* business, and he should have part of the estate.

*Underwood* and his Wife denied the whole fact, and thereupon the Jury withdrawing, after some consultation returned into the Court, whose verdict was, that the said *Underwood* and his Wife were not guilty of the Indictments.

The names of the other persons that were indicted, was *John Bigsby*, *Tho. Drinkwater*, *Mary Hog*, *Mary Dugliss*, *Thomas Green*, *Thomas Edwards*, *George Bont*, *Thomas Mead*, *Sarah Taylor*, *Sarah Love*, *Christopher Read*, and *Mary Read*; all which were acquitted by the Jury.

On Saturday, December the 17th. the four persons condemned to dye were drawn on Sledges to *Tyburn*; great was the concourse of people to behold their *Exits* which (together with others that suffered with them for crimes of another nature) caused such a distraction as it was hard to take their Speeches in particular; but what was by them generally delivered was to this effect.

Mr. Ordinary, we are come hither by the providence of God to suffer for a Crime which the Laws of the Land hath condemned us for, wherein we cannot but acknowledge our own guilt; and the justice of that Law for the breach whereof we are to suffer: We had a hope to have died so much alone as we might have had opportunity to have better expressed our selves; but our Crimes are so great and enormous as hath invited such a multitude of people to be spectators of our tragedy, as hath put us into some kind of amazement; and therefore we shall not adde much more to what is already spoken, but onely to prepare our selves for that great journey we are now to go. And so with some invocations on the name of Jesus, desiring the Lord to grant them a pardon for their sins, the Executioner did his office.

F I N I S.